

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 11-19 have been added.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,525,269 to Sato ("Sato").

Sato discloses a grommet having a recess 15d which is adapted to receive the edge of a hole into which the grommet is arranged. Col. 2, ll. 28-33; see FIGs. 1, 4. The recess 15d is arranged between an abutment surface (i.e., thin-walled portion 15c) and an inner member (i.e., an unnumbered portion of base body 15). The abutment surface 15c does not provide any biasing force on the grommet. Any biasing force applied appears to be generated by the flange 19. See col. 2, ll. 45-47.

The device of Sato hence does not have a first wall portion that extends from a connection point of the first sealing member and faces the first sealing member, or a second sealing member that extends radially beyond the first wall portion. Such features are required by pending claim 1, as amended, and thus by the original dependent claims 2-10 and the new dependent claims 11-19. Among other things, the claimed arrangements provide for improved sealing effect, since the second sealing member has a radial extent so as to better cover the edges of the hole.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims cannot be anticipated by Sato because Sato does not disclose every feature of the pending claims arranged as in those claims. Moreover, the features of the dependent claims, particularly the new dependent claims 11-19, are not disclosed or even suggested by Sato.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of same is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned attorney may be telephoned at the number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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